THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Following the decontrol of rice, 80 employees (all non-gazetted) were thrown out of employment and 45 employees were reverted to their parent departments from the Civil Supplies department in the Malabar district between the 10th July 1954 and the 30th September 1954. There are still four gazetted officers and 281 non-gazetted employees attending to the residual work in the district.

" (b) The question of absorbing the temporary employees of the Civil Supplies department following the abolition of that department, was considered by the Government as eraly as 1952 and for that purpose, two examinations were conducted by the Madras Public Service Commission in February and June 1952. Such of the candidates who came out successful in the examinations were allotted to regular departments without prejudice to their continuance in the Civil Supplies department, so that they might revert to those departments when their services were no longer required in the Civil Supplies department. There is no other proposal before the Government on the subject."

Gratuity to certain workers of Kondotti Beedi Factory, Malabar.

* 518 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representation has been received by the Government from the Beedi Workers' Union, Kondotti, South Malabar, alleging non-implementation of the award of the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, regarding the payment of gratuity for six workers of Kondotti Beedi Factory, who were dismissed; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir. A petition was received from the Union along with claim petitions from the workers.

" (b) Recovery of the amounts due to five workers as per the award of the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, has been ordered. The case of one more worker was not pressed by the Union before the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore."

Industrial Tribunal for plantation workers.

* 519 Q.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether any Special Tribunal has been appointed to enquire into the service conditions of plantation workers.

(b) when the Tribunal was appointed;

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(c) whether the Government have fixed any time-limit for the submission of the final report;

(d) whether any interim report has been submitted by the Tribunal;

(e) if so, the recommendations contained in the report; and

(f) whether these recommendations will apply to the Government Cinchona Plantations?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) No, Sir. The Government have, however, constituted a Special Industrial Tribunal to adjudicate on disputes relating to the fixation of wages, dearness allowance, etc., of the workers and staff employed in the plantations in the Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Salem, Malabar, Madurai and Tirunelveli districts.

" (b) The Special Industrial Tribunal was constituted on the 24th March 1952.

" (c) No, Sir.

" (d) Yes, Sir. The Tribunal has submitted an award on payment of an interim increase in wages and an interim award on payment of " Deepavali Bonus " in 1954.

" (e) The Tribunal has awarded the following increased wages to the workers as interim relief with effect from 1st January 1954 :—

	RS.	A.	P.	
Grade I workers	1	7	0	a day.
Grade II workers	1	1	0	,,
Child	0	11	0	,,

' No interim relief has been considered necessary for the staff. The Tribunal has held that no payment of any ' Deepavali Bonus ' in 1954 can be ordered.

" (f) No, Sir."

Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, இந்த டிரிபுனல் நியமிக்கப்பட்டு இரண்டு வருஷங்களுக்கு மேலாகியும் இன்னும் விசாரணை முடியவில்லை. விசாரணை துரிதமாக நடப்பதற்கு என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டது ?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I may tell the hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition that I am not myself satisfied that this inquiry should be so prolonged. But I may tell him that it is not right on the part of the Government to send directions to the tribunal as they are functioning as a judicial body. We cannot tell them that they must expedite their hearing. But anyhow, I may tell him that I am looking into the question."